

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An audio playback apparatus comprising:

a sound source storing ~~in which a plurality of music files are recorded~~ in a hierarchical manner;

playback unit specification means for specifying a unit for use in selecting ~~[[of a]]~~ music file ~~group~~ groups, wherein each music file group comprises at least one music file ~~in which said plurality of music files recorded in said sound source are reproduced in a batch;~~

music file group selection means for randomly selecting ~~[[said]]~~ a music file group ~~in the unit specified by said playback unit specification means; and~~

playback means for reproducing ~~[[all]]~~ the music files included in ~~[[said]]~~ the selected music file group before reproducing music files that are not in the selected musical file group ~~selected by said music file group selection means.~~

2. (Original) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sound source records a folder, an album formed in said folder, and a music file formed in said album in a hierarchical manner and said playback unit specification means specifies any one of said music file, said album, and said folder as the unit of said music file group.

3. (Currently Amended) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

~~if said folder is specified by said playback unit specification means,~~ album selection means for randomly selecting said album from said selected music file group ~~selected by said music file group selection means,~~ if said folder is specified by said playback unit specification means;

wherein said playback means reproduces music files for each selected album.

4. (Original) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

selected area specification means for specifying an selected area of said music file group.

5. (Original) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said sound source records a folder, an album formed in said folder, and a music file formed in said album in a hierarchical manner and said selected area specification means is capable of specifying any one of said album, said folder, and all areas of said sound source.

6. (Original) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said playback means sequentially reproduces music files included in said selected music file group in the order of their recording.

7. (Original) The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said playback means randomly reproduces music files included in said selected music file group.

8. (Currently Amended) An audio playback apparatus comprising:
a sound source storing music files arranged in albums, an in which, for each album being which is a minimum unit [[in]] of a set of music files, said music files are recorded;

album selection means for randomly selecting [[said]] an album to be reproduced from [[said]] the sound source; and

playback means for reproducing [[said]] the music files ~~from said sound source in unit of said~~ the selected album before reproducing music files that are not in the selected album.

9. (Currently Amended) An audio playback apparatus comprising:
a sound source storing music files arranged in folders, in which, for each folder storing an album which is being a minimum unit [[in]] of a set of music files, said music files are recorded;

folder selection means for randomly selecting [[said]] a folder to be reproduced from [[said]] the sound source; and

playback means for reproducing the music files in ~~unit of said~~ the selected folder ~~from said sound source~~ before reproducing music files that are not in the selected folder.

10. (Currently Amended) An audio playback method comprising the steps of:
specifying, in a sound source storing in which a plurality of music files are
~~recorded~~ in a hierarchical manner, a unit for use in selecting ~~[[of]]~~ a music file group,
wherein each musical file group comprises at least one music file in which said plurality
~~of music files recorded in said sound source are reproduced in a batch;~~
randomly selecting ~~[[said]]~~ a music file group ~~in the unit specified by said~~
~~playback unit specification step;~~ and
reproducing ~~[[all]]~~ the music files included in ~~[[said]]~~ the selected music file group
~~selected by said music file group selection step~~ before reproducing music files that are
not in the selected musical file group.

11. (Original) The audio playback method according to claim 10, further
comprising the step of:

specifying an selected area of said music file group.

12. (Original) The audio playback method according to claim 10, wherein said
playback step randomly reproduces said music files included in said selected music file
group.

13. (Currently Amended) The audio playback method according to claim 10,
further comprising the step of:

randomly selecting an album from said selected music file group if, from said sound source recording a folder, an album formed in said folder, and a music file formed in said album in a hierarchical manner, said folder is specified in said playback unit specification step, ~~randomly selecting said album from said music file group selected by said music file group selection step;~~

wherein said playback step reproduces music files for each selected album.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer readable media storing a computer program that causes a processor to perform a method, the method comprising for ~~causing a computer to execute the functions of:~~

specifying, in a sound source storing in which a plurality of music files are ~~recorded~~ in a hierarchical manner, a unit for use in selecting ~~[[of]]~~ a music file group, wherein each musical file group comprises at least one music file in which said plurality ~~of music files recorded in said sound source are reproduced in a batch;~~

randomly selecting ~~[[said]]~~ a music file group in the unit specified by said ~~playback unit specification function; and~~

reproducing ~~[[all]]~~ the music files included in ~~[[said]]~~ the selected music file group ~~selected by said music file group selection function~~ before reproducing music files that are not in the selected musical file group.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~program~~ media according to claim 14, wherein the method further comprises ~~comprising the function of:~~

specifying an selected area of said music file group.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~program~~ media according to claim 14, wherein
the method further comprises ~~comprising the function of:~~

randomly selecting said album from said music file group selected by said music
file group selection function if, from said sound source recording a folder, an album
formed in said folder, and a music file formed in said album in a hierarchical manner,
said folder is specified by said playback unit specification function, ~~randomly selecting~~
~~said album from said music file group selected by said music file group selection~~
~~function;~~

wherein said playback function reproduces music files for each selected album.